



CONSENT CALENDAR

November 28, 2023

TO: Honorable Members of the City Council

FROM: Mayor Jesse Arreguín, Councilmember Kate Harrison

SUBJECT: Civic Arts Referral for Memorial Wall to Councilmember Dona Spring and Budget Referral for Civic Arts Staffing

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget Process \$162,000 from the General Fund and allocate one additional FTE for staffing for Civics Arts and refer to the Civic Arts Commission to commission a Memorial Wall to Dona Spring at the Animal Shelter.

BACKGROUND

In November 2008, the Berkeley City Council adopted a resolution renaming the City's new animal shelter after Councilmember Dona Spring, who passed away in July 2008. While the Berkeley Animal Shelter opened in 2013, the effort to install a permanent memorial to Councilmember Dona Spring has stalled for the past decade. This budget referral seeks to reinvigorate this initiative and fund the process of installing a memorial art wall.

From the November 18, 2008, Council report "Naming the New Animal Shelter in honor of Councilmember Dona Spring"¹:

Councilmember Dona Spring was instrumental in highlighting animal welfare problems in Berkeley and was central in solving them. She urged the council to make animal research organizations operating in Berkeley accountable for the humane treatment of animals. She was one of the people in Berkeley that demanded a new concept of an animal shelter to be led by an experienced civilian

¹ [Naming the New Animal Shelter in honor of Councilmember Dona Spring](#) (Berkeley City Council, November 18, 2008) [PDF]

in animal welfare. She championed the council decision to create the new position of volunteer coordinator in the shelter that oversees the loads of volunteers who come to the animal shelter to socialize pets and make them much more adoptable. She fought for new Berkeley laws affecting animal welfare, such as the spay and neuter of animals and providing money for animal rescue groups, that reduced the number of homeless animals in Berkeley. She demanded that Berkeley's adoptable animals not be euthanized, which led to a change in the way homeless animals are treated.

Civic Arts staff currently have 20 active public arts projects and a backlog of 14 public art projects (see Civic Arts Commission FY24 Work Plan²). At current staffing levels, the Civic Arts Program has the capacity to implement 10-15 art projects per year. While additional projects are approved every year, the Civic Arts Program operates with a perpetual backlog. This budget referral seeks to fund an additional 1 FTE to Civic Arts staff to help address the current backlog and implement this referral to the Civic Arts Commission.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

\$162,000 from the General Fund for one additional FTE Civic Arts staff.

Funding for the Memorial Wall, if approved, to be included in a future annual Civic Arts plan.

CONTACT

Mayor Jesse Arreguín 510-981-7100

² [Civic Arts Commission FY 24 Work Plan](#), approved July 19, 2023 (pgs. 32-33) [PDF]